

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 23 as follows:

In an alternative arrangement the rupturing device may be used in an active system, such that heat is deliberately applied to the annulus to cause it to contract. A simple method of generating internal heat in the SMA wire could be achieved by resistive ohmic heating 99, which could be achieved by either direct application of a current to the SMA annulus or by inducing a current in the annulus to achieve heating. It will be clear to the skilled person that other heating means for both solid and wire annuli may be employed, such as external heating wires or a radiant heater. By careful control of the rate of heating and the total heat applied the concomitant rate of contraction and total force provided by the contraction of the annulus can also be controlled. This allows the user to select the amount of damage or degree of rupturing to the casing that is desired, ranging between merely distorting the component through to actually cutting it open. In the situation where the annulus is being used as a mitigation device it is desirable that the casing is at least split by the action of the annulus so as to effect the necessary release of pressure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 22 as follows:

The cutting action of a contracting annulus may be enhanced by the incorporation of a cutting device. This device may comprise a metal or ceramic spike, blade or sharpened edge 86, which may be mounted in a separate housing 88 to retain and direct it. The cutting device is placed between the annulus and the casing to be cut. Upon contraction of the annulus, the device will be forced radially inwards, cutting into the casing to produce an opening. It will be readily appreciated by a person skilled in the art as to the size of opening required to allow the explosive to be mitigated in any particular munition. The size of cutting device may then be selected to create the desired size of opening. Further, it may also be desirable that the cutting device, when not in use, is held in a retracted position, such that it is not in permanent direct contact with the casing to be cut. In this way, any weakening or premature rupturing of the tube in normal service is avoided. This retraction of the cutter may be achieved by, for example, placing a sacrificial

spacer or a bias means, such as a set of springs between the cutting device and the casing.

Alternatively the cutting device may be retained by pins, or adhesive, which can be sheared, or caused to fail by other means, by the action of the contracting SMA.